

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7259

S E C R E T AMMAN 1390

NODIS//CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, SA, XF

SUBJECT: HAWK FINANCING

REF: AMMAN 1378

1. SUMMARY: AFTER DISCUSSION THIS EVENING CROWN PRINCE HASSAN BELIEVES HE WOULD BE GETTING TOO FAR OUT AHEAD OF HIS BROTHER IN SENDING A MESSAGE TO PRINCE FAHD IN AN EFFORT TO SET UP A MEETING. HOWEVER, HE ASKED THAT HIS PRESENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION, INCLUDING HIS STRONG CONSLUSION THAT A MEETING IS DEFINITELY REQUIRED, BE PASSED ON TO THE SECRETARY. HE ALSO REFERRED TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY DURING HIS AUTUMN TRIP, WHEN HE MADE POINT THAT IT WAS TIME TO BEGIN TO BUILD UP SOME BACK PRESSURE ON JODAN'SLIDE TOWARD SYRIA. HE SAID HE HOPED HIS EFFORTS TO TRY TO KEEP HAWK SITUATION FROM DETERIORATING FURTHER WOULD BE SEEN IN THAT LIGHT. IN ADDITION, HE BELIEVES THE US, SAUDI ARABIA, AND EGYPT ALL SHARE THIS INTEREST AND THAT IT WOULD BE SERVED BY SOME CLEARING OF THE AIR BETWEEN JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA OVER THE HAWK FUNDING. HE ENDED BY ASKING IF US WOULD NOT MAKE SAUDIS AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND WHERE IT MIGHT LIKELY END AND SUGGEST A MEETING, DRAWING IF NECESSARY ON HIS TALK WITH ME AS APPROPRIATE, BUT IN CONFIDENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. HASSAN ASKED TO SEE ME AGAIN EVENING MARCH 15 (REFTEL). WE

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BRIEFLY DISCUSSED BENANON ON WHICH HE HAD NOTHING NEW TO OFFER.

WE THEN TURNED TO QUESTION OF HAWK FUNDING.

3. I TOLD HIM I HAD GIVEN IT A LOT OF THOUGHT AND THAT I BELIEVED IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR HIM TO GET INVOLVED IN SENDING MESSAGES TO THE SAUDIS, PARTICULARLY IF THOSE MESSAGES SEEMED TO GO BEYOND WHAT KING WAS NOW PREPARED TO DO. HASSAN SAID HE AGREED. HE FELT THAT HE WAS ONE MEMBER OF KING'S CABAL WHO COULD SPEAK TO HIM FRANKLY AND COULD PROVIDE A BRAKE ON SOME OF THE EFFORTS PRIME MINISTER WAS MAKING WHICH SEEMED TO BE ILL-CONCEIVED. HE DID NOT WANT TO UNDERCUT HIS FUTURE CAPACITY TO PLAY THAT KIND OF A ROLE.

4. HASSAN THEN REFERRED TO HIS TALKS WITH YOU DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO THE US. HE REPEATED FOR ME THAT HE HAD TOLD YOU THEN HE WAS CONCERNED BY THE JORDANIAN DRIFT TOWARD SYRIA AND THAT HE HOPED MORE BALANCE COULD BE INTRODUCED IN JORDAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS. HE FELT THAT EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA AS WELL AS THE US SHARED THIS COMMON ASSESSMENT. HE BELIEVED, HE SAID, THAT IN THIS CONTEXT ALONE IT WAS IMPORTANT SOMEHOW TO GET KING AND FAHD TO DISCUSS SITUATION. HE RECALLED KING HAD NOT SEEN FAHD ON HIS LAST TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA WHEN HE SAW KHALID IN JANUARY AT HIS HUNTING CAMP IN NORTHERN SAUDI ARABIA. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HOPED YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND HIS REQUEST THAT THE US AT LEAST LET FAHD KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND THAT IF WE AGREED WITH HIS (HASSAN'S) ASSESSMENT WE TELL FAHD ALSO THAT THERE WAS SOME SENSE IN TALKING THINGS OVER FURTHER WITH KING HUSSEIN. HE THEN POINTED OUT THAT KING HAD NOT YET RECEIVED SAUDI MONEY (\$300M) AND IT MIGHT BE SOME TIME IN COMING AND THAT THERE WAS THUS SOME INCENTIVE ON JORDANIAN SIDE FOR A TALK.

5. ON MODALITIES, HASSAN SAID THAT HE DID NOT SEE HOW KING COULD TAKE ANY SORT OF INITIATIVE, HAVING ADDRESSED THE LAST LETTER TO FAHD AND RAISED IN IT THE POSSIBILITY OF GOING ELSEWHERE FOR HIS AIR DEFENSE MISSILES. BUT FAHD WOULD BE WELCOME HERE AND KING WOULD NOT REFUSE AN INVITATION TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA BEFORE HE GOES TO THE US.

6. I ASKED HASSAN WHAT HE THOUGHT A VISIT WOULD ACCOMPLISH. HE SAID AT LEAST SAUDIS WILL UNDERSTAND KING AND RIFAI ARE SERIOUS ABOUT GOING TO THE SOVIETS AND THAT KING AND FIRAI SHOULD ALSO  
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BE GIVEN A CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT SAUDI REACTION WILL BE IF JORDAN DOES GO TO THE SOVIETS.

7. HASSAN THEN ASKED WHY THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT MAKE SUCH A SUGGESTION TO THE SAUDIS. IF NECESSARY, SAUDIS COULD BE IN CONFIDENCE TOLD DETAILS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH ME, BUT HE SAID " I DO NOT CUR MUCH ICE WITH THE SAUDIS AND THEY PROBABLY WOULD NOT PUT TOO MUCH STORE IN WHAT I SAY".

8. I PROMISED TO PASS ON HIS REMARKS AND CONCERNS TO THE SECRETARY.  
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